

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Scofield, why the exemption on the State Energy Office? Why do they even need to be mentioned in the bill?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Well I'm not sure what the future of that office is at this point, but it was not my intent to make Energy Office people have the same precise relationship to the Governor that I think people in the Policy Research Office did, and that, in fact, came as a suggestion by the Director of Policy Research, Gary Rex, who said he didn't want those folks to fall under that exclusion, and I agreed, and when we drafted the bill we made that point clear. That preserves the integrity, I think, of the Energy Office, and at some future point it might be spun off out of the PRO office, and I think that might be appropriate.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. Let....Right now the Energy Office is independent, right?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I just wanted to make that absolutely clear that my intent was not to include Energy Office employees in the changes that this bill anticipates.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, are they planning to merge the Energy Office into the Policy Research Office? Is that what this...

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Not that I know of.

SENATOR WESELY: ...is a precursor of?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Not that I know of.

SENATOR WESELY: Of course, essentially now they've done somewhat of that with the director of both being the same individual. The Energy Office is one of the few agencies that doesn't have a director specifically required by law to be selected for that. As a result, we've seen sort of a mixing of this. I'm...hmm, I don't know, I'm a little bit concerned.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: There is a republican way of doing policy and a democratic way of doing policy, but there isn't a republican way to type or file versus a democratic way of filing and typing. And, Senator Scofield, let me ask this question, the phrase that